My name is Patricia Huff, I am the owner & Director of Guardian Angels HomeCare and I am here to support funding for the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program.

Alzheimer's often means Mom or Dad doesn't remember to eat, nor do they remember when it is time to bathe or dress, or how to dress themselves properly, so they have to be cued. We've had Alzheimer's clients use their kitchen stoves for a desk and their oven for a file cabinet, they forget how to use a simple microwave or try to wash the clothes with Crisco shortening. A diagnosis of Alzheimer's means having a need for safety oversight. Many, many families are struggling with the daily responsibility for their parent's care, the cost being their time as Caregivers and affect on their own lives. Many are willing to make this sacrifice but need support to keep their situation workable.

The money given to the Alzheimer's Association is in turn given in Grants to families to help pay for needed short term care. We have had several instances where the primary Caregiver needed surgery and this Grant made it possible for the primary Caregiver's absence by paying for an outside Caregiver to look after Mom or Dad. Many times the family is also trying to meet their own financial responsibilities so they work in addition to being a Caregiver. The Grant money allows them to keep Mom or Dad home and not be placed in a facility, a cost which would ultimately be borne by the State.

In Summary I ask that you fully fund support for the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program as it does support the families who are trying to keep their loved ones at home.

Patricia Huff Feb. 16, 2010

Cheshire, CT